

REMARKS

Claims 6-9 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over JP 10-053010 ("JP '010") in view of Yoshikawa et al (U.S. Pat. No. 4,872,932).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the reasons of record and the following additional reasons.

Applicants submitted Mr. Yoshikawa's Declaration on June 29, 2005, to demonstrate the unexpectedly superior results of the present invention.

The Examiner notes that the vibration-riding comfort test in the Declaration was evaluated based on the driver's feeling and the evaluation was classified in comparison to the control in term of values 0; +2; +4 and +8 (page 2); however, the test values were presented to range from 129-137 (page 3).

In response, Applicants submit herewith a Supplemental Declaration to explain that the evaluation was classified in comparison to the control in term of values 0; +2; +4 and +8 and the total points are expressed in indexes based on the control of 100.

Further, the Examiner considers that the nature of the test performed is very subjective to the individual performing such test and the particular conditions of the vehicle used to perform it.

Applicants respectfully disagree. The Declaration describes that the same car was employed in the vibration-riding comfort test and that the evaluation was made based on the

same driver's feeling (page 2). Therefore, Applicants submit that the test was evaluated relative to the same standards (car and driver) and thus can be reasonably compared.

The data in the second table of the Declaration (page 3) show that the present invention provides not only improved vibration-riding comfort, but also improved driving stability.

Applicants submit that achievement of improved vibration-riding comfort and improved driving stability at the same time cannot be expected in light of the disclosure of enhanced bond by the use of PVD treatment of the nonwoven to adhere the rubber coating of the composite material.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are not obvious over the cited references, and thus the rejection should be withdrawn.

II. Conclusion

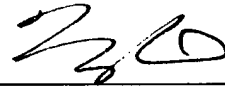
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No.: 09/960,345

Attorney Docket Q65935

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: August 8, 2006